NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

November 17, 1995

United Way
Crusade of Mercy

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Crusade of Mercy

Dear Colleagues:

Every year, Jerry Lewis relates his desire to receive one more dollar over the prior year's telethon total. Similarly, our modest goal for this year's United Way campaign was to match last year's total contributions. And if we were sure to reach all staff members, maybe we would collect a few more dollars to help fund a few more needed services.

We are happy to report the Field Museum staff has donated $12,604 during this year's United Way campaign; this represents a $934 increase over last year's successful campaign. More importantly, while at the moment we have a few less employees on staff than in recent years, an additional fifty-two contributors joined in supporting the Crusade of Mercy.

To all who contributed to this year's campaign, thank you. To all who were unable to contribute, but let us know by returning your pledge form, thank you. To all our committee members who did all the real work on this campaign, thank you. We thank all of you for your support, interest and involvement.

Employees who elected to participate via payroll will see the Crusade of Mercy contribution beginning with the December 8 paycheck. As in previous years, employees who are on-going participants and did not return a pledge form will see a continuation of last year's contribution on their paycheck. If you should have any question about your payroll contribution, please call Jennifer Noe (x526) and she will be able to help you.

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UNITED WAY continued ...

For employees who elected to give a one-time donation in the form of a personal check and have been wondering when it will clear your account -- we have delivered all checks to United Way late this week and they should be clearing your account soon.

Though the campaign is officially over, a few pledge forms were not recovered. If you wish to contribute, let us know. It is not too late to contribute and every gift is important.

Thank you,
Tom Geary & Judy Burns
Co-Chairs, United Way/Crusade of Mercy

A FOND FAREWELL

The Exhibits Department would like to bid a fond farewell to Janet Kamien, Director of Exhibits. Janet will be moving to a new position as Vice President of Exhibits and Programs at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia. Her last day will be November 23. Please join us at 4:00 p.m. on Friday, November 17 at the south end of the fourth floor Exhibits Department.

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Janet Kamien's shoes will be harder to fill than a dinosaur's footprints, but we will try to find a replacement! During the search process, Mary Beth Krebs Kovacik, Director of Economics and Administration in Museum Affairs, will serve as Acting Director of Exhibits. You can reach Mary Beth by dialing either extension 434 or 225.

Laura Gates

Vice President, Museum Affairs

1995 EXPENDITURES

In order to ensure that 1995 purchase orders expenses hit our 1995 budget, please have all purchase orders in Tom Geary's office no later than Wednesday, November 30. Purchase orders with November dates on them will be charged to your 1995 budget (assuming of course that your budget is not overspent). Purchase orders received in December and after will hit the year in which title to the goods or service is received.

JUST A REMINDER!

All proposals being submitted to federal agencies are to be routed through the Department Chairman, Area Vice-President, Grant Coordinator, Director of Financial Operations, and the Vice-President Of Finance before they leave the building. If you have any questions in regard to institutional procedures for federal grants or proposals, please contact Lisa Wodis (x542) in the Finance Department.

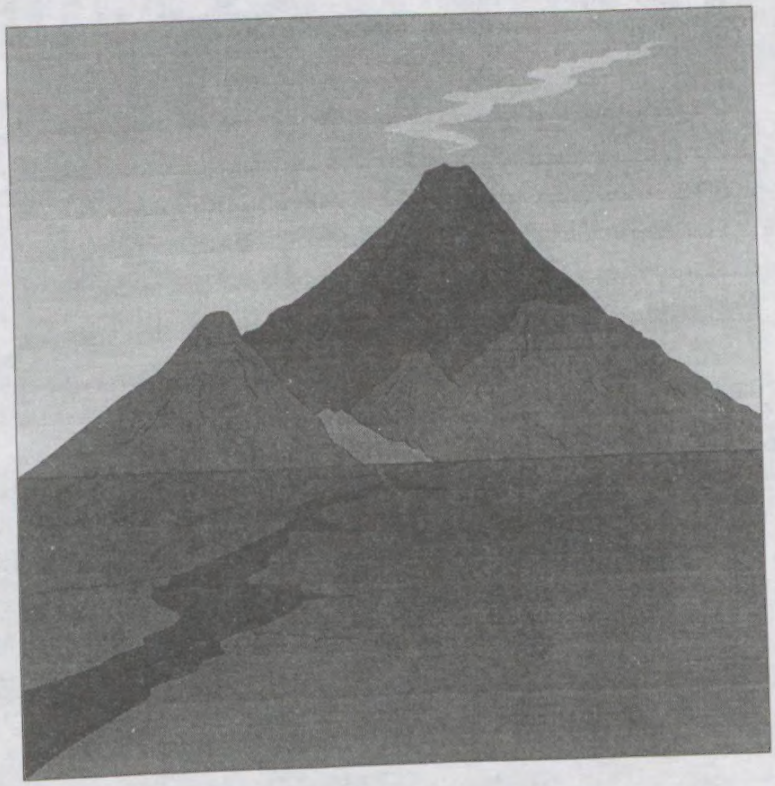
CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

GEOLOGY DEPARTMENT HOSTS VISITOR FROM CHINA

Professor Zhu Zhongde, Director of the Department of Scientific Research at Jianghan Petroleum Institute in Jingsha, Hubei Province, China, visited the Geology Department from November 9 to November 12. Professor Zhu is a carbonate petrologist interested in Lower Ordovician reefs, and he came to The Field Museum to study our collection of fossils and rock samples from North American Ordovician reefs. He was a host to Matthew Nitecki (Geology) last year in China when Nitecki visited his institute and conducted field work with him along the Yangtze River. They published one paper together and have submitted three notes to the 30th International Geological Congress, Beijing. Although Zhu's English is much better than Nitecki's Chinese, they often were forced to resort to paper and pencil.

PETER CRANE IN MEXICO

Peter R. Crane (Academic Affairs) was an invited speaker at the XIII Mexican Botanical Congress at Cueravaca, Mexico from November 4-7. Crane presented a plenary lecture and contributed to a symposium on phylogenetic systematics.



STEERING COMMITTEE PLANS INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS

Peter R. Crane (Academic Affairs) attended the first meeting of the Steering Committee for the XVI International Botanical Congress to be held in St. Louis in 1999. Crane was elected to serve as Chair of the Program Committee for the Congress, which anticipates approximately 5,000 participants and more than 250 symposia.

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon for November 14, 1995 was presented by Dr. Andrew Tuen, Lecturer, Faculty of Resource Science and Technology, Universiti Malaysia, Sarawak, and participant in the Advanced Training Program in the Conservation of Biological Diversity, Field Museum.

Andrew presented a broad overview of animal conservation in Sarawak. By way of introduction he described the major ecosystems found in Sarawak, from coastal mangrove forests, proceeding inland through lowland dipterocarp forests, and high hill forests into mountain regions above 2,000 meters. Each of these regions has been altered, to varying degrees, by human impact. This is especially true for lowland forests where secondary growth vegetation predominates. Government policies support both conservation efforts as well as resource exploitation. The expansion of the National Park Ordinance in 1991 mandated an increase in lands to be set aside for habitat protection. There are more than 290,000 hectares in existing parks and reserves, and an additional 740,000 hectares have been slated for protection. Quite severe penalties can be imposed on people taking certain species in these totally protected areas. However, government conservation polices may seem to conflict with government economic incentives that result in resource exploitation. For example, sanctioned logging not only alters the habitat, but also leaves new roads and bridges which in turn facilitate subsequent access to undisturbed habitats. Incentives are provided to remove forests and establish extensive commercial plantations for cultivation of oil palm or tea. These large tracts dissect the remaining forest and impinge upon movement of large vertebrates. On a smaller scale, secondary forest is removed for rice, black pepper, or cocoa cultivation. In some areas, large pond fish farming has augmented depleted supply from polluted waterways. Long term conservation efforts will certainly benefit from the government supported Resource and Science Technology programs of the Universiti Malaysia Sarawak, established in 1992. The primary directive is to train students in wildlife management and conservation. Andrew briefly described his own studies of Sambar deer food preference in secondary growth/semi-natural habitats. His base-line data are integral to the establishment of deer farming as an expanded local food source.

IN THE FIELD DEADLINE

The copy deadline for the January/February 1996 issue of In the Field is December 1. Please be aware that because of holiday schedules and post-office overload, there is very little leeway for getting this issue together. If you anticipate a problem meeting the deadline, please call me ASAP.

Ron Dorfman (X465)

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions is Tuesday at noon.

MS. MERIDIAN NEEDS YOUR HELP!!!!

ATTENTION all Ms. Meridian voice mail users. Voice mail storage is almost to capacity! This may result in NO messages being accepted throughout the system. After listening to your voice mail messages, please clear them by pressing 76# after each one. If you are going on vacation or will be away from the Museum, please plan to have someone in your department take your messages and clear them from your voice mail. They will need your password. Thank you for your assistance.